

NCT 70-60

~~SECRET~~

ER-14204

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

(11) (4)
MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation. Recent developments are believed to have been due to Soviet influence, they appear to offer the best opportunity for providing a "road map" for political settlement in the "liberated" areas.

I. Military Situation. The invading Northern forces are continuing their general advance along the whole width of the Korean peninsula. Enemy troops are pushing forward on every road and trail, their morale is extremely high, and they appear both skillful and resourceful in enveloping and eliminating road blocks. US actions to date have failed to blunt the edge of Northern morale and momentum. The skill demonstrated by Northern forces appears attributable to the presence of Korean combat veterans who served with the Chinese Communists in Manchuria, to the presence of Soviet advisors, and to the presence in the "People's Army" of significant numbers of Koreans who had served as officers and enlisted men on the Soviet western front during World War II. The weight of the Northern invaders' push makes it apparent that their present objective is the speedy defeat of all defending forces in the south.

Three Northern divisions have pushed forward approximately 15 miles from the Osan area, crossing a defended river, and have reached the outskirts of Chonan. The enemy advance in this area has forced US troops to withdraw to the Chonan area in order to avoid premature commitment in an unfavorable situation. The regrouping of the Southern Korean I Army Corps has been partially completed and this newly-organized Southern unit has moved to the area of Chinchon, 15 miles southeast of Ansong, where the Southern "Capital" Division is also located. On the east coast, 500 Northern troops are reported to have advanced 30 miles south of their former position at Ulchin.

A Northern Korean tank and truck column, stalled by a blown bridge, was hit by US aircraft. Northern forces lost 21 tanks in this and other actions. Results of US air strikes against the only Northern Korean oil refinery, at Wonsan, have not been determined. The Northern air force was not reported in action.

No results of yesterday's shelling of Chumunjin by a British naval unit were observed.

Approved for Release
Date 05 MAR 1980

Declassified by 032931
date 05 MAR 1980

~~SECRET~~

- 2 -

III. Political Stability.

State

US ambassador Muccio reports that previous estimates of the number of Republican National Assemblymen who were successful in escaping from Seoul should be revised upward; the whereabouts of 150 out of a total of 210 Assemblymen are now known. Among the "missing," 60, virtually all are the so-called "middle-of-the-road" members of the Republican Assembly. Because these Assemblymen are believed to have remained in Seoul voluntarily, they appear to offer the invading Northern regime its best opportunity for providing a "respectable" facade for any provisional government in the "liberated" areas.

R. H. HILLENKOTTER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central Intelligence

HARRY S. TRUMAN LIBRARY
Papers of Harry S. Truman
President's Secretary's Files

~~SECRET~~